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problem. It was too early to judge of the practical success of the Kodayar Project and even if it has proved a success, it has yet to be seen whether it will ensure a never-failing supply of water to meet all demands in all seasons and in times of drought for a year or two. Notwithstanding the existence of rivers and channels, the people of Nanjanad have all along been dependent on their tanks for irrigating their lands. Not infrequently they had heavy down-pours in the country parts without even a drizzle on the hills; and in such cases there would be failure of supply in the Kodayar reservoir itself, and there would be no means of taking advantage of the rains on the plains if the tanks be done away with. He also referred to the necessity of a good water-supply to the cattle of the ryots and to the excellent pasture afforded by the tanks for the cattle to graze on. He said that the money that might be realised by Government would be very small in comparison to the loss and hardship the ryots would be put to, by the sale of the tanks, and requested that a special committee composed of officials and non-officials be appointed to report on the necessity and advisability of auctioning the irrigation tanks, and prayed that Government might consider the question patiently and seriously before passing final orders.

Dewan's reply.—The views of Mr. Ramasubramony Iyer certainly require careful consideration. This is how the matter stands. The Special Revenue officer, now at the Kodayar, has been instructed to take the case of each tank and deal with it separately. Government will not pass any general order either to the effect that all the tanks should be sold in auction, or to the effect that they should all be left alone. The D. P. W. officer and the Special Revenue officer will take the case of each tank and decide whether it is advantageous to maintain it, or whether it may not with advantage be sold. I would advise you and your fellow-ryots of the locality, when the Special Officer goes round, to lay before him all the circumstances you may have in support of your view, and I have no doubt that he will give them due weight and consideration.

44. *Constitution of a separate Irrigation Maramat Agency.*

Mr. M. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) urged the constitution of an Irrigation Maramat Agency and the allotment of special funds for the repair and maintenance of irrigation tanks in his Taluk. He attributed the present impoverished condition of the people of his Taluk to frequent failure of crops owing to want of

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supply of water. There are about 400 tanks in his Taluk and these, he said, were being much neglected, as Government had ceased to do any maramat works. In the time of Dewan Mr. Ramiengar, Rs. 5,000 a year was spent on his Taluk. Gradually the amount was reduced to about Rs. 3,000 during 1070-1074, and thereafter nothing was being spent, not even a fraction of the income derived as tax. Before the introduction of the settlement, the land revenue was Rs. 49,000, but the new rates have brought in over a lakh of rupees. If one-tenth of this were spent, they would be better off.

Dewan's reply.—I understand that one of the biggest tanks (Plathankara tank) in the Taluk is under maintenance by the Public Works department. Government will enquire into the condition generally of the tanks in the Taluk and see if there are any of them, besides the one already mentioned, of sufficient importance to be taken up under regular maintenance by the Public Works department.

45. Lanes and pathways to be kept in order, by owners of adjoining lands.

Mr. P. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) said that owners of lands should be compelled to repair and keep in order the lanes and other pathways adjoining their properties. Owing to the neglect of the Taluk authorities, the lanes and pathways were being encroached upon to the inconvenience of the public.

Dewan's reply.—If there are encroachments on particular lanes or pathways, and if the people of the localities bring them to notice, our officials will take action on them. But Government cannot undertake to go about all the pathways and lanes in the State and see if they are kept in a proper condition. The suggestion of the member is not quite practicable.

V. Revenue and Finance.

46. Development of the salt industry.

Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar of Eraniel (Member, Nominated) requested that facilities might be afforded for the development of the local manufacture of salt. He said that the Kudivaram rates obtaining at the Thamarakulom allam might also be introduced into the other allams.

Dewan's reply.—This question of developing the salt industry of the State has been continuing to receive the attention of Government for some time past. Government have been taking steps, but have not succeeded much, because people prefer Bombay salt.

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